

REMARKS

Consideration of this Amendment After Allowance is requested.

Claims 2-7 remain in the application. Claim 4 is the only independent claim in the application.

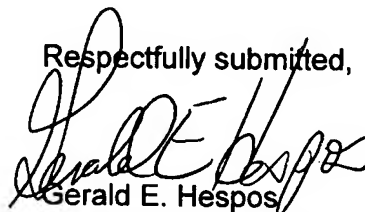
The claims were allowed with a Notice of Allowance dated September 7, 2004. Japanese and U.S. counsel for the applicants were conducting a final review of the allowed claims prior to paying the issue fee. As part of this review, a minor error in the preamble of independent claim 4 was noticed. In particular, claim 4 originally depended from claim 1 and defined features pertaining to the auxiliary unit. Claim 4 had not been subject to a rejection in view of prior art. The applicants and the assignee concluded that the subject matter of claim 4 provided appropriate protection. As a result, original dependent claim 4 was rewritten as an independent claim. The amendment to rewrite claim 4 as an independent claim also attempted to address parts of original claim 1 that might not have been considered sufficiently clear. In this regard, the preamble of original claim 1 stated that the apparatus comprises "a deposit/withdrawal unit and a base unit located at upper and lower sides." The applicants intended this phrase to mean that the deposit/withdrawal unit is at the upper side and the base unit is at the lower side. This relative position of the deposit/withdrawal unit and the base unit is the only arrangement shown in the figures and is defined very clearly in the first sentence on page 10 of the specification.

The rewriting of claim 4 into independent form attempted to clarify the preamble. As part of this clarification attempt, however, the deposit/withdrawal unit was

identified as being at the lower side rather than at the upper side as shown in the drawings and as described in the specification.

The requested amendment to the preamble merely ensures that the preamble conforms to the figures, the original specification and the intent of original claim 1. This requested change clearly does not present new issues that would require further consideration or searching by the Examiner. Additionally the amendment requires a mere cursory review by the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Allowance is believed to be appropriate and is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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